

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In this response, claim 6 has been amended in response to the PTO's objection to its dependency from claim 4 (which was cancelled when subject matter from claim 4 was incorporated into claim 1). Applicants have amended claim 6 so that it now depends from claim 1. Claim 17 has also been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Entry of these amendments after final rejection is believed proper because they remove the outstanding objection and simply correct obvious errors.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10-22, 25, and 26 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objection

Claim 6 is objected to for containing informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims render this objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-16, 20-22, 25, and 26

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-16, 20-22, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,382,305 to Sano (hereafter "Sano") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,716,406 to Reisfeld *et al.* (hereafter "Reisfeld") and U.S. Patent No. 5,221,520 to Cornwell (hereafter "Cornwell"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office states on page 3 of the Office Action that Sano discloses a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for an automobile that includes inlets, outlets, and an air mix door. However, as noted by the Office on page 3 of the Office Action, Sano does not disclose or suggest that the HVAC system includes a first ozone generator and

a second ozone generator, as recited in claim 1, or at least one ozone generator, as recited in claim 11.

Nor does Sano disclose or suggest that the HVAC system includes at least one catalyzer, as recited in claim 1, or a catalyzer “configured to be displaced between an active position assigned to the purification mode in which the catalyzer projects into a flow path of the ozone-enriched current of air and through which the ozone-enriched current of air flows, and a passive position assigned to the sterilization mode in which the catalyzer is completely or substantially removed from the flow path and is entirely or substantially bypassed by the ozone-enriched current of air,” as recited in claim 11. The Office argues on pages 5-6 of the Office Action that the air mix door of Sano can switch between an active position and a passive position. However, an air mix door is not a catalyzer, as recited in claim 11.

Reisfeld discloses a photocatalytic air purifier that includes a filter layer with a UV lamp 20, a filter element 14, a filter element 16, a second UV lamp 22, and a filter element 18. See Reisfeld at col. 3, lines 18-22. The Office argues on pages 3-5 of the Office Action that Reisfeld discloses an ozone generator, referring to the UV lamps 20, 22 of Reisfeld. However, such a UV lamp is part of a catalyzer and is not an ozone generator, as explained by Reisfeld in col. 4, lines 4-7. Reisfeld does not disclose or suggest that the UV lamps or catalyst produce ozone. Thus, Reisfeld does not disclose or suggest a first ozone generator or a second ozone generator, as recited in claim 1. Nor does Reisfeld disclose or suggest that the UV lamps 20, 22 are capable of being displaced between an active position and an active position, as recited in claim 11.

Cornwell discloses a system that includes filters, oxidation catalysts, and an ozone generator. See Cornwell at col. 7, lines 25-29; col. 8, lines 1-4, 25-27. However, Cornwell does not disclose or suggest a second ozone generator, as recited in claim 1, because Cornwell discloses only a single ozone generator 20. Nor does Cornwell disclose or suggest that a catalyzer that can be displaced, as recited in claim 11. Thus, Cornwell fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sano and Reisfeld.

The combination of Sano, Reisfeld, and Cornwell does not render claims 1, 3, 5, 10-16, 20-22, 25, and 26 to be unpatentable because the combination of Sano, Reisfeld, and Cornwell does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sano, Reisfeld, and Cornwell, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,214,303 to Hoke *et al.* (hereafter "Hoke"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Hoke fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sano, Reisfeld, and Cornwell discussed above in regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 17-19 depend. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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